

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 17, 2006 has been received and considered. In this response, claims 1, 19, 27, 28, 41 and 42 have been amended, claims 18, 25, 26, 33, 39, and 40 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the amendments herein and following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 25-28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 25-28 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Elements recited in claims 25 and 40 have incorporated by amendment into independent claims 1 and 19 in response to the present Office Action. Therefore, amended claims 1 and 19 include amendments to overcome section 112 issues identified by the Examiner. This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed with amendment to comply with the Examiner's remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter of claims 26 and 40

Claims 26 and 40 have been identified as allowable by the Examiner if rewritten to overcome their rejections under section 112 and to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended accordingly to include the allowable limitations.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1, 18, 19-23, 25, 34-37, and 39

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 18, 19-23, 25, 34-37, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pradeep et al. (US 6,251,764). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed with amendment.

Claims 18 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 40 and its intervening claim (claim 39). Claims 39 and 40 have been cancelled. Independent claim 19 has been amended to include all limitations of claim 26 and its intervening claim (claim 25).

Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims under § 103 is respectfully requested, as all claims incorporate subject matter identified as allowable.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submits that the amendments made herein to incorporate subject matter identified as allowable place the independent claims and their corresponding dependent claims in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants believe no additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 01-0365.

Respectfully submitted,

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